WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for calibrating a scanner being coupled to a host computer, the method comprising:

   retrieving operational data from a memory element of the host computer;
   evaluating the retrieved data for degradation in the operation of the scanner; and
   calibrating the scanner to overcome the degradations.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operational data includes information obtained from previous scans and calibrations.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the retrieved data further includes calculating the percentage of change between past and present operational data.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the calculated percentage initiates the step of calibrating based on an average value of an operational condition being calibrated.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the calculated percentage initiates the step of calibrating the scanner according to a predetermined value contained on a calibration strip.